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# Facility Upgrades Encourage Group Use

*Sarah Johnson, Board President*

Thanks to major donor contributions, the Discovery Center's "maturing" facilities have been renovated and refurbished over the last two years. This winter's primary project was to upgrade our cabins. The eight bunkhouses are now drywalled, insulated, carpeted, and will soon sport spiffy new blinds. Our three teaching cabins are receiving new closets and cabinetry to make them more efficient and useable.



*Our newly renovated cabins and main lodge offer clean, comfortable accommodations for camps, reunions, conference groups, and more. Our facilities are able to house groups of up to 100.*

Last year's project was a major restoration of our main lodge. Anyone who remembers the former echo chamber can well appreciate how happy we are with our rehabbed large meeting and dining room. And our kitchen has made even caterers jealous.

Add to this our lakeside outdoor amphitheater, campfire ring with rustic seating, large recreation field, miles of trails with a state-of-the-art bog boardwalk, and a sandy swimming beach complete with canoes, kayaks and sailboats. The result: ideal facilities and wonderful outdoor amenities for campers, reunions, conferences and other groups.

*Continued on page 2*

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Layout & Design.....Licia Johnson  
Content Editor.....Sarah Johnson

## OUR MISSION

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is a community-based environmental learning center that promotes stewardship of the region's natural and cultural resources.

Property managed under an agreement with the WI DNR.

## For Your E.D.ification...

*Tom Joseph, Interim Director*

Spring. As I write this during a string of unseasonably warm days in early March, I can't help but think of it. The sap has started running, the load limits are on the roads, the days are longer. Our world is thawing. It definitely puts a spring in your step.

It's spring at the Discovery Center, too, and that means finalizing our Summer Program Guide, with torrents of fresh ideas to help our many audiences enjoy, understand and connect with our Northwoods environment and culture.

These efforts, of course, require resources. This summer, we plan to hire three seasonal interns: an Environmental Educator, an Aquatic Invasives Coordinator, and a Birding/Timber Wolf Intern. Interning at the Discovery Center is a win-win proposition -- affordable for us, and a fantastic learning, even career-building experience for energetic young people. In fact, our naturalists, Zach Wilson and Licia Johnson, both started here as interns. And last year's environmental education intern, Krysten Hintz, has agreed to return in the same capacity. We are grateful for her continued involvement.



*Krysten Hintz visits the Bayfield Ice Caves this past winter. Krysten will join the Center as our Environmental Education Intern, where she will work with youth, and all ages, throughout the summer. Hiking, exploring, learning -- and simply enjoying our Northwoods environment.*

**Photo Credit: Licia Johnson**

So let me repeat the plea from my recent letter to Discovery Center members: We need your help to fund these opportunities. If you haven't responded to that mailing, please consider doing so now, either online at [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net) "Support," or by simply sending us a check with a notation to Fund An Intern.

### ***Facility Upgrades, continued from page 1***

The Discovery Center is just 15 years old; however our grounds and facilities have a much longer history. We sit on the former site of a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Camp, dating from 1962. Over the years, campers completed a number of projects including trail clearing and cabin and facilities construction. In 1992, all YCC Camps were closed due to a lack of funding. Four years later, a group of citizens with plans for a community-based nature center partnered with the North Lakeland School to set up a lease arrangement with the state. Shortly thereafter, the North Lakeland Discovery Center was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

A central commitment of the Center has always been to provide high quality, year-round programming. However, such efforts have been hampered by aging infrastructure and non-winterized buildings. Though we still have a ways to go to be fully winterized, we can proudly say that our facilities today are better than ever. Stop by and check out the many improvements; or contact us to schedule a tour of our facilities and make plans to book your group this summer or fall, by day or by week.

# Our Bigger and Better Event

Doors will open at 4pm, Sunday May 30th, for our biggest fundraiser event of the year, *The Big Event*. Enjoy wine and appetizers as you browse and bid on getaways to Bayfield, Colorado, Tucson, and Chicago. Additional silent auction items include guided fishing dates and a selection of other outdoor activities; a wonderful array of items for your home and garden; delicious and unique dining and food experiences; original art and books; unique jewelry pieces and so much more.

A gala dinner will be served outdoors in the big tent, and the evening will wrap up with a live auction. We've added a few more seats this year, but it's important to reserve your spot soon. This event sold out a week in advance last year so watch for complete details and registration materials in the May newsletter or check us out online at [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net).



## Naturalist Notes:

### Discovering the Nature of Spring

*Zach Wilson, Staff Naturalist*

For those of you living in the Northwoods this time of year, you're certain to have noticed, the "times they are a changin'." It's a primordial change experienced every spring, and whether we're ready or not, our snowy days are a thing of the past. According to my phenology notes, March 2010 resembles March of 2007. In 2007, our first thunderstorm was February 22nd; Canadian geese and snow buntings were here by the 15th of March; and ice on the Discovery Center's Statehouse Lake went out March 30th.

I always look forward to mid-March and the events unfolding in our backyard woods and waters. This is the time of year our days get longer, the maple trees run sap, and when we dig out the gum boots and splash in the puddles. These are the days we experience the rebirth of nature, as nature and "life" awoken from a long winter's nap.

A while back I was inquiring about the word nature, and the idea of the "nature of nature." Not everyone who spends time in our outdoors does so for the same reason. But what about the idea that we share a need, whether recognizable or hidden, to connect to our ancestry. The word "nature" is derived from the Latin word *natura*, which according to Webster means "essential qualities, innate disposition" and "birth."

As we take a walk in the woods and enjoy the changes of spring, we are able to more clearly see ourselves as a part of nature. The steps we take, and how heavy we step, can affect the interconnected "nature of nature," from our local to our global environment. So, as we venture outside this spring, rather than complaining about the muddy mess, let's take a moment to appreciate renewal, birth, and nature -- ourselves included!



*Photo Credit: Licia Johnson*

# 6th Annual Birding Festival Takes Flight

---

The Discovery Center and Bird Club, in partnership with the Manitowish Waters Chamber, host the 6th Annual Birding Festival, May 14-15. The event attracts birders of all ages, from beginners to advanced. Our northwoods region is in the midst of warbler migration during mid-May, which makes for some great birding opportunities. In fact, if we are lucky enough to hit a heavy migration day, as many as 100 species may be recorded in one day!



*Festival participants enjoy an up-close, side-by-side look a pair of Gray-cheeked Thrush during afternoon bird banding by Iron County Wildlife Biologist, Bruce Bacon. Bird banding is a scientific research tool that allows for the collection of data related to bird populations and overall species' health.* Photo Credit: Guy David

The festival begins with a Friday evening reception, where all are welcome to enjoy a delicious array of appetizers and beverages. An art exhibition and artist narration provide for the evening program. "Habitats North: Artists at Home with Birds" focuses on unique Northwoods habitats, the birds that inhabit them, and their influence on the featured artists: John Bates, Mary Burns, Terry Daulton, Connie Kerkove, Jeff Richter, and Joan Slack.

Saturday begins with a sunrise warbler walk or bird banding demo. A healthy breakfast follows, accompanied by this year's keynote speaker, Stan Tekiela -- wildlife photographer and writer -- on "Uncommon Facts about Common Birds." Participants then enjoy a field trip, with choices including hikes, canoes and auto or boat tours. Lunch is followed by seminars, bird banding, and "build your own" feeders. A complete itinerary and registration form are available online at [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net) or by calling 1-877-543-2085.

## Wolf Tales

from the  
Timber Wolf  
Alliance



Hillari Vashaw, a student from Cityside Middle School in Zeeland, Michigan, recently spent a day teaching 4th graders at Quincy Elementary School about wolves. The day included up-close looks at wolf pelts, skulls, and scat. Hillari's lesson plan for the day was packed full, and found students learning about wolf biology and characteristics through slideshows, power point presentations, art projects, mock-Jeopardy games, edible wolf cookies, and more! At 14, Hillari is the youngest member of the Timber Wolf Alliance Speaker's Bureau, which provides schools with wolf education programming. Timber Wolf Alliance joined the Discovery Center as an affiliate in May of 2008.

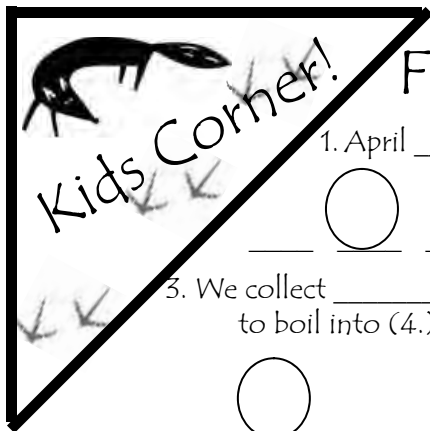


*Contributed Photo*

For more information on TWA please write to [tw@discoverycenter.net](mailto:tw@discoverycenter.net) or visit [www.discoverycenter.net/twa.htm](http://www.discoverycenter.net/twa.htm).



*Timber Wolf Alliance was founded in 1987 to promote and maintain a viable population of wolves in the western Great Lakes region.*



# Find the Hidden Phrase!

Answer the questions below and find the hidden message. The letter that falls in the circle belongs to the hidden phrase below.

1. April \_\_\_\_\_ bring May flowers.



2. Baby wolves are called \_\_\_\_\_.



3. We collect \_\_\_\_\_ from maple trees to boil into (4.) \_\_\_\_\_.



5. In April, the female black \_\_\_\_\_ comes out of her den with the cubs.



6. The bird that lets us know spring is here, eating all the worms, is the \_\_\_\_\_.



7. This small purple flower that grows in the woods is Wisconsin's state flower.



8. When the frozen ground \_\_\_\_\_ it becomes very soft.



9. All the melting snow creates lots of \_\_\_\_\_ for us to splash in!



10. The Monarch is the only \_\_\_\_\_ that migrates south for the winter.



HIDDEN PHRASE:

\_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ !  
 1                    2                    3                    4                    5                    6                    7                    8                    9                    10

Cut Here.....

## Membership Form

### Discovery Center Membership

- Individual/Seeker.....\$25.00
- Family/Household/Trekker.....\$50.00
- Adventurer.....\$100.00
- Trailblazer.....\$250.00
- Explorer.....\$500.00
- Voyageur.....\$1,000.00
- Pathfinder.....\$2,500.00
- Guide.....\$5,000.00
- Business.....\$250.00
- Please make me a **Bird Club** member for an additional \$10
- Please make me a **Timber Wolf Alliance** member for \$25.00 or more: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount

### All membership levels include:

- free onsite use of watercraft and snowshoes
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*The North Lakeland Discovery Center is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, so your contribution to The Center is fully tax deductible as allowed by relevant law.*

For more details about becoming a member of the Discovery Center, NLDC Bird Club or TWA please visit our website at [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net).



Please return membership form to:  
 NLDC, PO Box 237 Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

# APRIL 2010 PROGRAMS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Brown Bag: Frogs and Toads of Wisconsin 12 pm at the Presque Isle Library	8 Nibbles N' Knowledge: Yukon-NOLS Adventure 5-7:30 pm @ MW Community Center	9	10 Owl Monitoring 8-10 pm	11
12 Bird Club Meeting 7 PM Bobcat Cabin	13	14	15 NLDC Board Meeting 3:30 pm	16	17 International Crane Count 5:30-8 am Mighty Marsh Birds 12-2 pm	18
19	20	21	22  EARTH DAY!	23	24 Spring Thaw Canoe 9 am-12 pm	25
26	27	28 Walleye Watch 7-9 pm	29	30		

# MAY 2010 PROGRAMS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3 Bird Club Meeting 7 pm Bobcat Cabin	4	5 Brown Bag Koller Library Manitowish Waters 12pm-1pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Helping Hands Day 9am-2pm	14 Birding Festival	15	16
17	18	19	20 Nibbles N' Knowledge Antarctica Trip 5-7:30 PM @ NLDC Lodge  NLDC Board Meeting-3:30pm	21	22 TWA Advisory Council Meeting 9am-4:30pm	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Waterfall Tour 9am-4pm ----- T-shirt Stamping 10am-12pm	30 Big Event

For further details on our programs and for registration information, please call 715.543.2085 or visit us online at [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net).



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